

## Preface

Welcome to WOMRAD, the Workshop on Music Recommendation and Discovery being held in conjunction with ACM RecSys.

WOMRAD 2011 is being held on October 23, 2011, exactly 10 years after Steve Jobs introduced the very first iPod. Since then there has been an amazing transformation in the world of music. Portable listening devices have advanced from that original iPod that allowed you to carry a thousand songs in your pocket to the latest iPhone that can put millions of songs in your pocket via music subscription services such as Rdio, Spotify or Rhapsody. Ten years ago a typical personal music collection numbered around a thousand songs. Today, a music listener has access to millions of songs, drawn from all styles and genres and from all over the world. The seemingly infinite choice today's music listener faces can lead to a rich music listening experience, but only if the listener can find music that they want to listen to.

Traditionally, music recommender systems have focused on the somewhat narrow task of attempting to predict a set of new artists or tracks for purchase based upon an individual's purchase history. As music listeners spend more time interacting with multi-million song music collections, the need for tools that help listeners manage their listening will become increasingly important. Tools for exploring and discovering music especially in the long tail, tools for organizing listening, tools for creating interesting playlists will all be essential to the music listening experience. Other contexts such as groups listening, music learning are emerging as important aspects of recommendation and discovery.

The WOMRAD workshop focuses on next generation of music recommendation and discovery systems. Accepted papers fall into a number of categories:

- Social aspects of music discovery
- Semantics and recommendation
- Group recommendation
- Learning strategies for recommendation

We are pleased to offer this selection of papers and hope that it serves as evidence that there is much interesting and fruitful research to be done in the area of music recommendation and discovery. We offer our thanks to all of the authors who submitted papers to this workshop.

October 2011

The Organizers